

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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Preparing Your Home for Wildland Fire Season

With the wildland fire season fast approaching, now is the time to start preparing your home. Many people—especially those with recreational property—really don't take the time to prepare their investment for a wildland fire.

Here are some tips on how to prepare your home for the upcoming fire season:

- Remove dead or overhanging branches. During the windy conditions that exist during a wildland fire, flames, sparks, and firebands could travel from trees to the roof of your structure.
- Remove leaf accumulation from your yard. Leaf accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.
- Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters. During a wildland fire, leaves on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.
- Remove tall, dry grasses. Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
- Remove ladder fuels. Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between six and ten feet from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree.
- Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair. Refuel garden equipment carefully. Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly away from dry, flammable grasses.
- Prune bushes and shrubs regularly. Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire.

- Have a well-irrigated area which encircles the structure for at least 30 feet on all sides, providing space for fire suppression equipment in the event of an emergency.

These are just a few tips to prepare your home from a wildland fire. For more information, you can access Firewise at www.firewise.org.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State, including inspections of state-licensed facilities, plan review of fire protection systems and school construction projects, licensing of fire sprinkler contractors and pyrotechnic operators, training Washington State's firefighters, and collecting emergency response data. For additional information, you may visit our Web page at www.wsp.wa.gov and then click on "State Fire Marshal".

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